For: FSA and RMA Employees
Gainsharing Travel Savings Program
Approved by: Deputy Administrator, Management


## 1 Overview

## A Background

The Government Employees Incentive Awards Act (5 U.S.C. 4501-4507) authorizes an agency to pay a cash award for "efficiency" or "economy". The Gainsharing Travel Savings Program is designed to reward employees who save the Government money while on Temporary Duty (TDY) travel.

## B Purpose

This notice:

- continues the Gainsharing Travel Savings Program for FSA and RMA employees
- informs employees, supervisors, and managers of the procedures to follow when using the program
- clarifies the lodging credit when employees avoid lodging expenses when staying with family or friends.


## C Labor-Management Obligations

Where exclusive representation exists, bargaining may be requested to the extent allowed by applicable statutes. Where contract language already addresses these policies and procedures for bargaining unit employees, contract language prevails.

## Disposal Date

January 1, 2008

## Distribution

All FSA and RMA employees; State Offices relay to County Offices

## 2 Gainsharing Travel Savings Program

## A General

The Government Employees Incentive Awards Act (5 U.S.C. 4501-4507) authorizes an agency to pay a cash award for "efficiency" or "economy". FSA and RMA will continue rewarding employees who save the Government money from using either of the following:

- less expensive lodging
- frequent flyer benefits to purchase airline tickets for official travel.

Note: Employee participation in the program is optional.

## B Types of Travel Covered

All TDY travel with lodging expenses, foreign and domestic, will be covered under this program.

Note: Only the 1st 30 calendar days of extended TDY travel (that is, a detail of more than 30 calendar days where a reduced per diem amount is required) can be counted as eligible for savings in the program.

## C Lodging Savings

Employees who participate in the program can receive cash awards for incurring lodging expenses at a daily rate that is less than the maximum lodging rate for the locality under the lodging plus method.

- Awards will not be made to individual employees on travel where lodging was prepaid or prearranged and lower hotel rates were the result of contractual arrangements with the hotel.

Note: Any savings resulting from shared accommodations under such an arrangement do qualify for the travel savings award.

- Under the Federal Premier Lodging Value Program, GSA is pursuing reduced hotel rates through agreements with hotels in major cities.

Note: Lodging savings that are not eligible for the Gainsharing Travel Savings Program include the following:

- hotels in the program
- hotels under "preferred property" agreements.
- The amount of lodging savings must be reduced when excess transportation costs are incurred while staying at lodging more distant from the TDY site.


## 2 Gainsharing Travel Savings Program (Continued)

## C Lodging Savings (Continued)

- When a room is shared while on official travel, there will be a lodging savings.

Note: Employees should arrange to be billed separately. If separate bills are not possible, a daily rate must be determined for each employee. Divide the total lodging costs by the number of employees and the number of nights to arrive at a daily rate for each employee.

- All employees are encouraged to stay at a hotel that meets the requirements of the Hotel and Motel Fire Safety Act of 1990.

Note: Hotels in compliance are at www.usfa.dhs.gov/applications/hotel/.

- Lodging costs incurred on personal time, such as annual leave during official travel or any other type of personal preference travel used with official travel, will not be counted as lodging savings under this program.
- Employees who stay with someone while on official travel and avoid lodging expenses will receive credit for half of the lodging rate for the locality toward the travel savings cash award.

Example: Lodging cost is $\$ 100$ per night. The employee will receive $\$ 50$ credit. Enter $\$ 50$ on AD-2036, line (5), "Lodging Savings for Agency".

- Employees who incur additional transportation expenses must have those expenses deducted from their lodging savings.

Note: A determination must be made by the Approving Official that any transportation expenses incurred were excessive. Examples of excess transportation costs include, but are not limited to, the following:

- renting a vehicle, when a vehicle would not normally be rented at a TDY site, to travel to a place of free or reduced lodging
- when driving a privately-owned vehicle, driving 25 or more miles than would normally be traveled to/from the TDY site to obtain free or reduced lodging
- where a taxi fare incurred is 15 percent or more than what would normally be charged to obtain free or reduced lodging.


## 2 Gainsharing Travel Savings Program (Continued)

D Redemption of Frequent Flyer Benefits
Employees who obtain a free coach class ticket with frequent flyer benefits earned on official Government travel or personal travel are eligible for the travel savings award. Savings will be measured against the contract rate in effect at the time of the flight plus the applicable Travel Management Center (TMC) fee. If there is no contract rate, then the lowest available nonrestricted coach fare, plus the applicable TMC fee, will be used as the basis for measurement of the savings.

E Amount of Award

The amount of the award for each employee will be 50 percent of the savings on lodging expenses and the contract carrier airfare. Because Federal, State, local, and FICA taxes will be withheld on the award, the lowest minimum cumulative award that can be received is \$100.

## F Criteria for Award

The cumulative savings to the Government must be at least $\$ 200$ before the employee is eligible to receive an award.

## G Process and Responsibilities

The applicant will complete and submit AD-2036 (Exhibit 1) at
http://165.221.16.90/dam/ffasforms/forms.html for all trips that show lodging savings or redemption of frequent flyer benefits.

- Each time the employee records savings, AD-2036 must be submitted to the traveler's Approving Official with the appropriate AD-616.

Note: After review of AD-616 and AD-2036, the Approving Official will initial AD-2036 by each trip.

- When the cumulative savings to the Government has reached at least $\$ 200$, the employee and his or her Approving Official will sign each AD-2036 that is submitted as supporting documentation for the award.


## G Process and Responsibilities (Continued)

- All eligible employees must submit AD-287-2, AD-2036, and supporting documents to the Servicing Personnel Office by September 16 of each year, which will allow for processing time before the end of the FY.

Note: Any cumulative savings occurring after September 16 should be turned in as soon as possible after the end of the FY. If the $\$ 200$ criterion is not met before the end of the FY, it may be carried forward until it is met; however, the savings must be broken out by FY.

- The Approving Official shall provide a copy of AD-287-2 to BUD so that funds can be transferred from the travel allotment to the awards allotment.


## H Availability and Completion of Forms

AD-2036 is available at http://165.221.16.90/dam/ffasforms/forms.html. Instructions for completing AD-2036 are in Exhibit 2. An example of AD-287-2 is in Exhibit 3.

## I Distribution of Forms

The applicant shall send the original AD-2036, AD-287-2, and copy of AD-616 to the following.

| IF the employee is located in... | THEN send AD-2036, AD-287-2, and AD-616 to... |
| :--- | :--- |
| $\bullet$ FSA National Office | HRD, EPB-AWARD |
| - RMA National Office | ATTN: Angela Jackson |
|  | STOP 0595 |
|  | 1400 Independence Ave., SW. |
|  | Washington, DC 20250-0595 |
|  | Phone: 202-401-0682 |
|  | FAX: 202-205-9140. |
| - KCCO | KCHRO, ELRS |
| - FSA, FMD, Financial Services | ATTN: Dana Candler |
| Center | STOP 8398 |
|  | 6501 Beacon Drive |
| - Kansas City, MO 64133 |  |
|  | Phone: 816-926-6117 |
|  | FAX: 816-926-6156. |

2 Gainsharing Travel Savings Program (Continued)

## I Distribution of Forms (Continued)

| IF the employee is located in... | THEN send AD-2036, AD-287-2, and AD-616 to... |
| :---: | :---: |
| - FSA, MSD, Kansas City Administrative Services Branch <br> - FSA, Acquisition Management Division <br> - APFO | KCHRO, ELRS <br> ATTN: Patty Gepford <br> STOP 8398 <br> 6501 Beacon Drive <br> Kansas City, MO 64113 <br> Phone: 816-926-6259 <br> FAX: 816-926-6156. |
| FSA, ITSD | KCHRO, ELRS <br> ATTN: Anne Wheeler STOP 8398 6501 Beacon Drive Kansas City, MO 64113 <br> Phone: 816-926-6184 <br> FAX: 816-926-6156. |
| State and County Offices | State Office, Administrative Division. |

The travel savings data on AD-2036 will be used to generate a nationwide report on the Gainsharing Travel Savings Program.

## Example of AD-2036, Gainshare Travel Savings Form

## Trip 1:

- Employee travels TDY to City X for 4 days.
- The contract carrier rate was $\$ 1,000$ round trip. The employee uses his or her frequent flyer benefits for a half price ticket ( $\$ 500$ benefit) and has a TMC fee of $\$ 20$. The airfare savings to the Agency is $\$ 480$ (the frequent flyer benefits minus the TMC fees).
- The government hotel rate is $\$ 100$ per night, but the employee was able to get a room for $\$ 90$ per night. The lodging savings to the Agency is $\$ 10$ per day.
- The employee saved the Agency $\$ 40$ for lodging expenses and saved an additional $\$ 480$ on airfare costs.


## Trip 2:

- Employee travels TDY to City B for 3 days.
- The government hotel rate is $\$ 100$ per night, but the employee was able to get a room for $\$ 50$ per night. However, the excessive transportation to the cheaper hotel was $\$ 30$ a day. The lodging savings to the Agency is $\$ 20$ per day (actual lodging costs minus excessive transportation).
- The employee saved the Agency $\$ 60$ for lodging expenses.


## Trip 3:

- Employee travels TDY to City N for 7 days.
- The government hotel rate is $\$ 100$ per night; however, the employee stays with family members while in City N. The Gainsharing policy states the employee will receive credit for half of the lodging rate. Therefore, the employee should indicate \$50 (half of hotel rate) each day on AD-2036, line (5).
- The contract carrier rate was $\$ 350$ round trip. The employee uses his or her frequent flyer benefits for a free ticket ( $\$ 350$ benefit) to save the Agency money and has a TMC fee of $\$ 20$. Therefore, the airfare savings to the Agency is $\$ 330$ (the frequent flyer benefits minus the TMC fees).
- The employee saved the Agency $\$ 350$ for lodging expenses and saved an additional $\$ 330$ on airfare costs.


## Example of AD-2036, Gainshare Travel Savings Form (Continued)

This is an example of a completed AD-2036.


## Instructions for Completing AD-2036

Up to 3 trips may be recorded on each AD-2036. When lodging savings or redemption of frequent flyer benefits are realized for a trip, record the trip on AD-2036 and submit it with the appropriate AD-616 to the Approving Official. The employee and the Approving Official will sign and date each AD-2036 when a minimum of $\mathbf{\$ 2 0 0}$ in savings for the Government is accumulated. AD-287-2 (Exhibit 3) may then be prepared and sent to the Servicing Personnel Office, with a copy to the appropriate Travel Coordinator.

Complete AD-2036 according to the following table.

| Item | Instructions |
| :---: | :---: |
| 1 | Enter employee's name (last, first, and middle initial). |
| 2 | Enter the last 4 digits of the employee's Social Security number. |
| 3 | Enter a checkmark in the box to indicate the appropriate agency. |
|  | Table Authorization |
| 4A - 6A | Enter the 1st, 2nd, or 3rd trip AD-202 number. |
| 4B-6B | Enter FEMA or property number for the hotel/motel identified on the Hotel and Motel Fire Safety Act of 1990 National Master List. The Hotel and Motel Fire Safety Act of 1990 National Master List is at www.usfa.dhs.gov/applications/hotel/. |
| 4C-6C | Enter Approving Official's initials. |
| 4D - 6D | Enter FY in which savings occurred for each trip. If 1 trip crosses FY's, enter the savings for the first FY as 1 trip and the savings for the second FY as another trip. |
|  | Savings Computation for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Trip |
| (1) | Enter day of the week and date for each night of lodging as savings were realized. |
| (2) | Enter maximum lodging rate for the TDY locality for each night's lodging. <br> Note: In the example, $\$ 100$ was recorded for Monday for the 1st night of the 1st trip. |
| (3) | Enter actual lodging costs for each night's lodging. If employees avoided all lodging costs by staying with friends or relatives, enter 50 percent of the maximum lodging rate. |
| (4) | Enter any excessive transportation costs incurred when the lodging is more distant from the TDY site. A determination must be made by the Approving Official that any transportation expenses incurred were excessive. Refer to subparagraph 2 C for examples of excess transportation costs. |
| (5) | Enter the actual lodging expenses and any excessive transportation expenses that are deducted from the maximum lodging rate for each night to arrive at the net lodging savings for the Government. |
| (6) | If frequent flyer benefits are being realized, enter the cost of the contract carrier or lowest coach fare available for the airline cost. |
| (7) | Enter frequent flyer benefits redeemed. <br> Note: In the example, the traveler did not fly on the 2nd trip and the traveler received a half-price ticket for the 1st trip. |
| (8) | Enter the calculated airfare savings. |
| (9) | Enter the total calculated savings for the Government (line (5) plus line (8)). |

## Instructions for Completing AD-2036 (Continued)

| Item | Instructions |
| :---: | :--- |
| 7a | Enter total dollar amount of lodging savings. Enter the total items 4A(5), 5A(5), and <br> 6A(5) for the 1st, 2nd, or 3rd trip recorded. |
| 7b | Enter total dollar amount of airline savings. Enter the total items 4A(8), 5A(8), and <br> 6A(8) for the 1st, 2nd, or 3rd trip recorded. |
| 7c | Enter total dollar amount of savings for the Agency. Enter the total items 4A(9), 5A(9), <br> and 6A(9) for the 1st, 2nd, or 3rd trip recorded. |
| 7d | Enter summary totals. |
| 7e | Enter total dollar amount of award to employee. |
| 8A | Enter name of employee’s supervisor. |
| 8B | Enter telephone number, including area code, of employee’s supervisor. |
|  | Employee and Agency Approving Signatures |
| 9A | Enter employee's signature. |
| 9B | Enter date (MM-DD-YYYY) the employee entered his or her signature. |
| 9C | Enter employee's telephone number, including area code. |
| 9D | Enter employee’s office location, including the Branch and Division. |
| 10A | Enter signature of the Agency Approving Official. |
| 10B | Enter date the Agency Approving Official signed AD-2036. |
| 10C | Enter title of the Agency Approving Official. |

Note: Submit AD-2036, appropriate AD-616's, and AD-287-2 to the Approving Official for approval.

## Example of AD-287-2, Recommendation and Approval of Awards

This is an example of a completed AD-287-2.

| It is the policy of the Department to ensure that consideration for awards is made without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, disability or other nonmerit factors. |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE <br> RECOMMENDATION \& APPROVAL OF AWARDS |  | CASE NO. (Personnel Use Only) |
| NOTE: For group awards, attach list of group members. Show data in Items 2-9, and award amount for each payee. |  |  |
| 1. AGENCY |  | 2. NAME OF EMPLOYEE (Last, first, middle initial) |
| FARM SERVIC | E AGENCY | TRAVELER, HARRY |
| 3. SOCIAL SECURITY NO. - - 4321 | 4. POSITION TITLE <br> Executive Officer | 5. PAY PLAN-SERIES/GRADE/STEP $\mathrm{GS}-303-12$ |
| 6. ORGANIZATION AND LOCATION City Z, AK | 7. PERIOD COVERED FOR AWARD (MMDDYY) FROM: 02-19-07 TO: 03-10-07 | 8. ACCOUNTING CODE |
| 9. IF AWARD APPROVED, MAIL CHECK TO: | (ADDRESS) |  |
| 10. LIST AWARDS OR QSI'S IN THE PAST 52 WEEKS (Specify type of award, amount received, and effective date) |  |  |
| Leave Blank |  |  |
| 11. CITATION: SUMMARIZE EMPLOYEE'S CONTRIBUTION IN 25 WORDS OR LESS (This language will appear on the employee's certificate,) EMPLOYEE IS BEING RECOGNIZED FOR: <br> Leave Blank |  |  |

Leave Blank
COMPLETE THE APPROPRIATE AWARD SECTION


|  | 16. TYPE OF RECOGNITION RECOMMENDED (Check one) |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | PERFORMANCE BONUS AWARD* | employee's position description and the performance standards for the position were thoroughly reviewed prior to submission of this recommendation; that the employee's performance is outstanding; and that the performance is characteristic and is expected to continue in the future. |  |  |
|  | 17. DATE OF LAST PROMOTION | 18. DATE OF LAST WITHIN GRADE INCREASE | 19. AM AW | PERFORMANCE BONUS |
| RECOMMENDATION AND APPROVAL |  |  |  |  |
| 20a. | COMMENDING INDIVIDUAL (Signature) | DATE ${ }^{\text {20b. NAME AN }}$ | (Print) | DATE |



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Form AD-287-2 (7/94)
Check applicable copy designation as shown below:
() ORIGINAL-Processing Copy ( ) 1st Copy-Official Personnel Folder () 2nd Copy-Obligation Record () 3rd Copy-Employee Copy

